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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 098552

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:WPBROWN:RFTYNER:SM
APPROVED BY S/PRS - IRWIN PERNICK
S/S - MR. LUERS
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O 131723Z MAY 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 098552

TOSEC 574

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV, MAY 13

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. NO FILM COVERAGE FROM ANY TRAVELLER OVER WEEK-
END. ADDITIONALLY, RADIO COVERAGE, EXCEPT FOR
ANCHORMEN COMMENTS, WAS SPARCE. FOLLOWING KALB REPORT
CARRIED MONDAY MORNING, CBS RADIO FROM JERUSALEM:

"KISSINGER MET WITH PM GOLDA MEIR AND OTHER TOP ISRAELI
LEADERS FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF THIS MORNING. THEN THE
ISRAELI CABINET WENT INTO SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER THE
LATEST PROPOSALS FOR A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT -- PROPOSALS
OR IDEAS THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD OF SYRIA GAVE THE SECRETARY
YESTERDAY. CENTRAL TO ANY POSSIBLE COMPROMISE IS CONTROL
OF KUNEITRA, THE FORMER SYRIAN DISTRICT CAPITAL ON THE
GOLAN HEIGHTS, AND THREE HILLS FLANKING THE CITY AND THREE
ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN-THE VALLEYS BELOW THE HILLS.

"MOST OF THE REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING KISSINGER WERE HELICOP-
TERED TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS TODAY TO EXAMINE FIRST-HAND THE
STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE THAT ISRAEL ATTACHES TO THE THREE
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PAGE 02 STATE 098552

HILLS AROUND KUNEITRA. THE REPORTERS WERE DRIVEN THROUGH

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THE WRECKED BOMBED OUT HULL OF THAT CITY, THEN TO THE TALL-
EST OF THE THREE HILLS. SYRIAN ARTILLERY SHELLS KEPT COM-
ING IN, ONE TO TWO KILOMETERS AWAY. THEN FINALLY TO A
KIBBUTZ -- THREE HUNDRED ISRAELIS BUILDING THEIR HOMES,
CHILDREN PLAYING IN GARDENS, APPARENTLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE
INCOMING SHELLS EXPLODING IN YELLOW PUFFS OF SMOKE ON
THE HILL JUST ABOVE US. THE ISRAELI ARMY COLONEL, OUR
GUIDE, SIMPLY LAUGHED WHEN A REPORTER ASKED WHETHER THE
ISRAELIS MIGHT ABANDON THE KIBBUTZ OR THE HILLS. HE
DID NOT SEEM TO BE ESPECIALLY ATTACHED TO KUNEITRA."

2. IN OTHER REPORTING OUT OF YOUR AREA, ANDREW MERSELS
ABC RADIO FROM JERUSALEM, REPORTS ISRAELI UNWILLINGNESS TO
GIVE UP HILLS SURROUNDING KUNEITRA, AND DEAN BRALIS,
CBS RADIO FROM DAMASCUS, STATES THERE ARE HINTS FROM
SYRIAN OFFICIALS THAT HAK MIGHT BE ON THRESHHOLD OF DIS-
ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. BRALIS CITES SYRIAN NEWSPAPER QUOT-
ING HAK DAMASCUS STATEMENT "FOR FIRST TIME"; SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT ISSUING STATEMENT IN "WARM AND CONFIDENT" LAN-
GUAGE WITHOUT DEMANDS; AND SYRIAN TV DEVOTING FIVE MINUTES
TO HAK-ASSAD MEETING SHOWING FILM OF BOTH "LAUGHING
AND FRIENDLY."

RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, NEGOTIATIONS, TOSEC 574
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE098552
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WPBROWN:RFTYNER:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740117-0540
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740552/aaaabuft.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV, MAY 13 FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE
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